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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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Wednesday, October 12, 2005  
HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL  
Earthquake Destroys 1,000 Hospitals in Pakistan - Hurriyet  
Gul: Reopening of Halki Seminary Not Urgent - Sabah  
EU to Release Turkey Progress Report on November 9 - Bugun  
Rice's First Stop Kyrgyzstan on Central Asia Tour - Tercuman  
Athens Won't Join Greek Cypriot Nikiforos Military Exercise  
- Hurriyet  
Eighteen Turkish Human Traffickers Detained in Britain -  
Milliyet  
British Police Crackdown on Turkish Human Smuggling Gang -  
Vatan

OPINION MAKERS  
Pakistanis Fume at Government for Delaying Aid Distribution  
- Cumhuriyet  
Rice Angers Armenian Lobby in the US - Cumhuriyet  
Rice's 'Effectiveness' Tour in Central Asia - Radikal  
British Police Smash Turkish-Kurds' Human Smuggling 'Empire'  
- Radikal  
EU Criticizes Britain's Anti-Terror Law - Zaman  
Iraq under Referendum Siege - Yeni Safak  
Khalilzad Pressures Iraqi Groups to Compromise on  
Constitution - Cumhuriyet  
USD One Billion of Corruption in Iraqi Military - Radikal  
Arrest Warrant for 4 Iraqi Ministers - Yeni Safak  
Bombs Kill 64 in Baghdad, Tal Afar - Yeni Safak  
Bakiyev: US Can Use the Manas Base as Long as it Needs -  
Zaman

BRIEFING

Wexler Joins EU Fast-Breaking Dinner in Brussels: US  
Congressman Robert Wexler joined a Muslim fast-breaking  
dinner (Iftar) at the European Parliament together with some  
European and Turkish lawmakers on Tuesday evening, "Zaman"  
reports from Brussels. Wexler called on the Turkish nation  
to consider the friendship between the two countries and the  
support provided by Washington with regard to Turkey's EU  
drive, and to 'tone down' criticism against the United  
States. 'Both the United States and Turkey need each  
other,' Wexler said. Wexler said it was 'relieving' that EU  
accession negotiations with Turkey kicked off October 3,  
adding that the opening of talks had ended the debates  
whether Turkey is European or not. Wexler stressed that the  
negotiation process will bring full membership and advised  
Ankara not to make concessions on reforms, says the report.

Turkey Sends Aid to Pakistani Earthquake Victims: Prime  
Minister Tayyip Erdogan told the ruling AK Party group  
meeting yesterday that the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay)  
had been the first group to take international aid to  
Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani Kashmir which was  
stricken badly in the South Asian earthquake. Erdogan said  
that Turkey dispatched to Pakistan 93 rescue and health  
teams, five vehicles, two ambulances and 23 journalists on  
four cargo planes. The Turkish aid team also took to  
Muzaffarabad USD 250,000 in cash, 10 tons of blood, infant  
food and hygiene materials, he said, adding that 40 doctors,  
one ambulance, tents, 12 tons of food and 10,000 blankets  
will be sent tomorrow. 'Our cooperation with Pakistani  
officials and humanitarian aid to Pakistan will continue,'  
Erdogan noted. Meanwhile, Turkish Cypriots sent five  
doctors, 12 rescue workers, 2,500 blankets and 21 tons of  
food on a cargo plane to Pakistan on Tuesday, papers report.

Avian Flu Threat in Turkey: On Tuesday, Health Minister  
Recep Akdag ruled out the risk of infection of humans in the  
current bird flu crisis in Turkey, adding that the ministry  
had prepared a national action program to cope with possible

crises. The Agriculture Ministry said the same day that some 7,000 turkeys and hens have so far been culled in the quarantined three-kilometer-square area around the town of Manyas near the Aegean Sea. However, the Turkish Veterinarians' Union said that the virus is likely to spread to other wetlands in Turkey via migrating birds. The EU Commission, Greece, Croatia, Kosovo and Ukraine suspended imports of poultry from Turkey following the first bird flu outbreak in the country. Meanwhile, a laboratory in London set to test the bird flu virus found in Turkey is to announce within days whether it is the highly dangerous H5N1 strain, papers report.

Gul on Turkey/EU, Kosovo: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul told journalists on his plane while en route to Kosovo that Turkish Cyprus will go its own way if a lasting solution under the supervision of the UN is not found in Cyprus. Gul said that the parliamentary ratification of the extension of Turkey's customs union to cover new EU member states including Cyprus was not an 'urgent issue' on the Turks' agenda, along with the reopening of the Greek Orthodox Halki Seminary in Istanbul. On his trip to Kosovo, Gul said that there were more Kosovars living in Turkey than there are living in Kosovo. 'All the Balkans are our relatives,' Gul said: 'I hope that all this geography will be within the European Union and NATO in the future and the fighting will be buried in history.'

Gul Visits Pristina, Belgrade: Foreign Minister Gul met with the Kosovar Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi and lawmakers in Pristina on Tuesday. Kosovar lawmakers praised the role of Turkish peacekeepers in the region and asked for Turkey's support of economic development in Kosovo. Gul said after meeting with PM Kosumi that Turkey favored peace, stability and cooperation in the Balkans. Kosumi thanked Gul for Turkey's support in determining the final status of Kosovo, voicing belief that Kosovo will be independent in June 2006. President Ibrahim Rugova said after receiving Gul that discussions on UNSG Annan's Kosovo report at the UN Security Council on October 24 will constitute a milestone on the way to the independence of Kosovo. Gul moved on to Belgrade later in the same day to be received by Serbian President Boris Tadic. Tadic said after meeting with Gul that Turkey always backed Serbia's efforts in 'Euro-Atlantic integrations,' international wires report. Tadic also pointed to the danger of further divisions within the EU in case Kosovo went independent and called for a solution that will meet Serbian, Albanian and Turkish interests. Gul said that relations among Serbia, Montenegro and Turkey were very good and stressed the need to further encourage economic cooperation. On Wednesday, the Turkish FM met with the President of Serbia and Montenegro, Svetozar Marovic, and the Serbian PM, Vojislav Kostunica, to discuss bilateral ties and recent developments in the Balkans. Gul will also hold a meeting with FM Vuk Draskovic after which the two FMs will sign two new agreements, say reports.

Turkish-Israeli Companies to Build Power Plant in Israel: The Israeli Infrastructures Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer visited Energy Minister Hilmi Guler yesterday, papers report. After the meeting, Turkey's Zorlu Energy Group and Israel's Solbar Industries signed an agreement to build a USD 360 million power plant in Israel. The power plant will start operating in 12 months. Ben-Eliezer said that Israel's goal is to try and strengthen relations between Turkey and Israel. He recalled the Pakistani-Israeli meeting in Istanbul last month and said that Israel would like to see Turkey continue acting as a bridge, especially with the Islamic and Arab countries. Guler said that Turkey wanted strong cooperation with Israel regarding water, electricity, oil and natural gas. Ben-Eliezer was later received by PM Erdogan and conveyed to the PM congratulations from Ariel Sharon, Shimon Peres and Ehud Barak over the opening of EU accession talks with Ankara, say papers.

EU to Release Progress Report on Turkey: The EU Commission progress report on Turkey to be released on November 9 outlines shortcomings such as the lawsuits filed against the editor-in-chief of the Armenian weekly "Agos," Hirant Dink, and renowned novelist Orhan Pamuk; police brutality against women protestors; lynching attempts against leftist demonstrators; penalties given to political cartoonists; inhuman treatment of mental patients; deficiencies in the law on non-Muslim minorities; as well as the lawsuit against the Egitim-Sen labor union for defending the right to the use mother languages in education, papers report. The progress report lauds Turkish efforts to implement the Copenhagen Criteria, the changes to the penal code and the moves to curb inflation and interest rates. The report says that despite progress in some areas, Turkey regressed on some specific topics, say papers.

Schroeder Due in Istanbul: The outgoing German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder is to arrive in Istanbul on Wednesday to meet with Prime Minister Erdogan, papers report. Schroeder

is expected to discuss with Erdogan the new shape of EU-Turkey relations in the aftermath of opening entry talks with Ankara before leaving Turkey later in the day, say reports.

**Sezer to Attend BTC Ceremony in Georgia:** President Ahmet Necdet Sezer is to travel to Georgia on Thursday to attend the commissioning ceremony of the Georgian section of the Baku-Thbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline. Sezer will be accompanied by the Energy Minister Hilmi Guler during the visit. Georgian and Azerbaijani Presidents Saakashvili and Aliyev will also join the inauguration. Oil pumping through the Georgian section of the pipeline began in early August this year.

**British Police Smash Human Smuggling Ring:** The British police detained nine people suspected of bringing illegal immigrants, predominantly Kurds from Turkey, into London in a series of house raids on Tuesday, papers report. Police said the operation, code-named 'Blue Sky,' was the most significant action taken against a huge, organized London-based criminal network. Reports say that the smuggling system was very 'sophisticated,' adding that the migrants would have paid between 3,000-5,000 pounds each to come to Britain. The network's kingpins are Turkish Kurds who came to Britain from Turkey as asylum seekers. Sources said that the ring is estimated to have made tens of millions of pounds from the trafficking of 'tens of thousands of people'.

**Turkey to Construct Three Nuclear Plants in 2007:** Turkey is to kick off talks with France, the US, Canada, Russia and South Korea this week to construct three nuclear plants in 2007, economic/political daily "Dunya" reports. The Turkish Atomic Energy Institution (TAEK) and PM Erdogan are to decide on the location of the nuclear facilities, says the report.

**Five Turkish Troops Killed in Fighting with the PKK:** Five Turkish troops were killed and one other was injured in a clash with PKK terrorists near the Cirali village in the eastern province of Tunceli early on Wednesday, wire services report.

**EDITORIAL OPINION: Pakistan; EU-Turkey; Syria**

"Opportunity Came with the Disaster"

Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (10/12): "One of the countries that immediately sent relief aid to Pakistan is India. India is considered an enemy of Pakistan due to the Kashmir problem. But the earthquake disaster brought the two sides together as Pakistan accepted India's offer of help. Let's remember that Pakistan and India were close to declaring war on each other in 2002 over Kashmir. The earthquake in 1999 brought Turkey and Greece closer together. Similarly, the tsunami disaster led to an agreement on Indonesia-Aceh. The disaster in Kashmir can be a tool to initiate a genuine peace process between India and Pakistan. This seems to be a not-to-be-missed historical opportunity."

"Critical Issues for Turkey"

Kamuran Ozbir commented in the nationalist "Ortadogu" (10/12): "There is an interesting conflict in the EU: the ruling elite of the EU support Turkey's membership. For example, industrialists in France, chambers of commerce in the UK, and military strategists in Germany are aware of the benefits that Turkey's membership would bring. On the other hand, the people of Europe do not want Turkey as a member. The politicians try to handle this conflict. If the politicians neglect Turkey, they will be acting against the will of their own ruling elite. If they accept Turkey as a result of the popular reaction, their political identity will be damaged. Nevertheless, if Turkey presents itself as a serious negotiator, great success will come from the negotiations."

"The US Prepares for an Operation against Syria"

Erdal Guven wrote in the conservative/sensational "Tercuman" (10/12): "There is no need to be a diviner or a strategy expert to see that the US is getting ready for a military operation against Syria. It was recently reported that Secretary Rice prevented a US intervention against Syria."

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This tells us that the US is preparing the psychological ground for a military operation against Syria. The US applied the same tactics before the Iraq operation. First, the possibility of an operation against Syria will be openly debated in the media. Next, the plan for an operation will be prepared. Then, when public support is gained, the US will launch the operation."

**MCELDOWNEY**